

Remarks

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-40 are pending.

The claims have been amended.

10 Claims 1 and 38 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found in the specification. The basis for the description of the donor web as a continuous length can be found in Figures 1-5 and the descriptions thereof in the Detailed Description (from page 14, line 19 to page 16, line 8). The basis for the description of applying heat and pressure to a section of the carrier side of the donor web
15 can be found on page 5, lines 5-9. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6, 12-15, 17-20, 22-24, 29-30, 32-34, 36 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(s) as being anticipated by Gordon et al. Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of
20 Hashida et al. Claims 7 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Nelson. Claims 25 -28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Cahill et al. Claims 21, 26, 27 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Spain et al. Claims 31 and 38-40 stand
25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon et al. in view of Higgins.

The presently claimed invention relates to a method of applying an uncut protective overcoat to a surface of a printed transparency, the method comprising:
30 uniformly applying heat and pressure to a section of a donor web, the donor web having a carrier side comprising carrier ribbon material and a transfer side comprising protective overcoat material, wherein the heat and pressure facilitate release of the transfer side of the section of the donor web from adhering to the car-

rier side of the donor web and facilitate transfer of the transfer side of the section of the donor web to adhering to the surface of the transparency, wherein the donor web is unrolled from a source roll upstream and taken up by a takeup roll downstream, the source roll and takeup roll tensioning the donor web, and torque from the takeup roll pulling the donor web to release the transfer side of the section from the donor web to adhere to the surface of the transparency, and wherein the released transfer side of the section of the donor web, defined by edges where the heat and pressure are uniformly applied on the section, is cleanly separated at the edges from the carrier ribbon material without trimming.

In the presently claimed invention, the carrier ribbon material is cleanly separated without trimming from the released transfer side of the donor web. This is accomplished by the application of heat and pressure to the section of the donor web in combination with the tension between the source roll and takeup roll and the torque from the takeup roll. No other action is necessary to achieve the separation.

In contrast, Gordon teaches a thermally imaged transparency on which is superposed a thin reflective protective overcoat. The application of the overcoat is achieved by using a laminar transfer sheet which includes a reflective protective overcoat and a carrier web. The reflective protective overcoat of the laminar transfer sheet is laminated onto the image surface and the carrier web subsequently removed by gripping the carrier web and manually or mechanically pulling it away from the reflective protective overcoat laminated on the image surface

(See Gordon et al. column 5, lines 34-39).

On the basis of the above underlined aspects of Gordon, Gordon does not anticipate or make obvious the presently claimed invention.

Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the present 102(b) rejection based on Gordon be withdrawn.

As discussed above, the presently claimed invention is distinguishable over

Gordon. Furthermore, Gordon combined with either Hashida et al., Nelson, Cahill et al., Spain et al or Higgins does not make the presently claimed invention obvious. This is because in no case do any of the combinations with Gordon teach or make obvious, among other aspects of the presently claimed invention, the aspect that the separation of the donor web from the protective overcoat material is accomplished, without any other means, by the application of heat and pressure to the section of the donor web in combination with the tension between the source roll and takeup roll and the torque from the takeup roll.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 38-40, the presently claimed invention further relates to a donor web providing an uncut protective overcoat to a printed transparency, the donor web having:

a) a carrier side comprising a carrier ribbon layer and a lubricant layer as an exterior layer preventing wear of a surface of a heating element or pressing element, the surface coming in contact with the carrier side of the donor web;

b) a transfer side comprising a protective overcoat material, a release layer as an interior layer adjacent to the carrier side, the release layer facilitating release of the transfer side from the carrier side by uniformly applying heat and pressure to a section that will become the protective overcoat to the printed transparency, the section that will become the protective overcoat having no predefined edges but having edges defined, without trimming, by where the heat and pressure are uniformly applied on the section; and an adhesive layer as an exterior layer of the transfer side, the adhesive layer enhancing adhering of a section of the transfer side to form the protective overcoat on the printed transparency.

In the donor web aspect of the presently claimed invention, like the method aspect discussed above, it is recited that, in releasing the transfer side of the donor web, heat and pressure are applied uniformly to a section that will become the protective overcoat to the printed transparency. Furthermore, it is further recited that the section that will become the protective overcoat has no predefined edges but has edges defined, without trimming, by where the heat and pressure are uniformly

applied on the section.

As discussed above with regard to Gordon, Gordon teaches removing the carrier web from the reflective protective overcoat of the laminar transfer sheet by gripping the carrier web and manually or mechanically pulling it away from the reflective protective overcoat laminated on the image surface. No such manual or mechanical intervention is necessary in the presently claimed invention to achieve the object of the invention.

- 10 In light of the above discussion, the applicants respectfully request that the 103(a) rejections based on Gordon combined with either Hashida et al., Nelson, Cahill et al., Spain et al or Higgins be withdrawn.

- 15 In light of the above amendments and arguments, applicants respectfully request that the §§ 102(a) and 103(a) rejections be withdrawn.

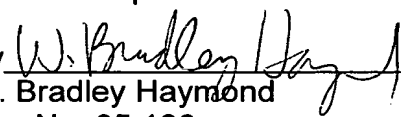
A prompt and positive response is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully Submitted,

25 Hewlett-Packard Company
1000 NE Circle Blvd. m/s 422B
Corvallis, OR 97330
Tele (541) 715-0159
Fax (541) 715-8581

Vladek Kasperchik et al.

By 
W. Bradley Haymond
Reg No. 35,186
Attorney for Applicants